



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

ROOM 216
STATE CAPITOL
65101

February 1, 2007

The Honorable Rod R. Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

I would like to invite you to join me for a lunch in St. Louis with business and community leaders from the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, the Regional Business Council and Civic Progress to discuss a number of issues that concern the citizens of both our great states.

This morning, I attended the Governors' Summit on Regional Economic Development in Kansas City with Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. This was our second summit. The goal of the summit is for Missouri and Kansas to work together to create a vibrant economy in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

I would like for our lunch together to be a launching point for similar efforts in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Both Missouri and Illinois will reap great benefits from a strong and growing economy in the St. Louis metropolitan region. I hope our discussion could include capitalizing on assets on both sides of the Mississippi River to attract good, family supporting jobs to the area, ensuring that the region's educational institutions are supplying a talented labor supply for employers, potential solutions to the Mississippi River Bridge issue and joint efforts to make the bi-state region a national leader in reducing our country's dependence on foreign oil through the research and production of renewable fuel sources.

I hope you will consider my invitation to open a dialogue on these important regional issues and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt".

Matt Blunt

cc: Dick Fleming, St. Louis RCGA
Kathleen Osborn, Regional Business Council
Tom Irwin, Civic Progress